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Art for art's sake
Corin Ford Forrester shows off art in her studio as part of the Tour de Forest this past weekend. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Public health unit refines digital data resources

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Public health officials have improved digital resources aimed at better understanding community health.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit launched its new Public Health Data Dashboards, which is a digital resource that aims to better improve the understanding of community health and provide transparency of past and current health trends.

The dashboards are available now at hkpr.on.ca/data.

The health unit said the dashboards, which can be accessed by way of the HKPR website, provide an in-depth look at vital public health data that will enable the health unit and other community partners to better understand trends, identify areas of concern, implement targeted interventions, and develop programs and services that will have a positive impact on community health and well-being.

"Our Public Health Data Dashboards are not only beneficial for municipal leaders, community partners and residents, but will also help us redefine and better inform our public health approach in the future," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the unit's medical officer of health.

"We now have a whole suite of community health dashboards that are providing

see MORE page 2

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Land Trust workshop un-frog-gettable

Local artist Mary Anne Barkhouse is leading a Toad House Building Workshop at Abbey Gardens on Sunday, Aug. 11. This workshop is part of the Haliburton Highland Land Trust's (HHLT) Partners in Conservation Workshop Series.

"I have been living here for over 25 years now, and the land, and all the amazing creatures and plants that also call the Highlands their home are what has kept me here," said Barkhouse. "I became familiar with the area when I was taking summer courses in silversmithing with Lois Etherington Betteridge at Fleming, so I guess you could say about this area come for the art, stay for the diverse and wonderful ecosystems!"

The workshop will guide participants in making toad houses out of clay.

"It was probably inspired by the toads that I see living in my woodpile in the summer," said Barkhouse. "Over the years I have seen that people have put out upside down broken terracotta flower pots in their gardens and toads seem to make use of them. In more recent years I have noticed that some garden and wildlife stores have been selling purpose built 'toad houses' so I thought it would make an enjoyable activity that could help raise awareness about the amphibians in the county, the work of the Land Trust, and also provide the toads with a fun and fancy shelter."

"[Abbey Gardens] happened to offer an excellent space for doing this type of workshop, so the HHLT was able to book it as a venue but I hope that it is also a good fit with the other activities that go on at the facility. Perhaps it will provide entertainment for the Ojibway horses that are adjacent to the area we will be using."

Mary Anne Barkhouse has sculpture installations in municipalities, museums, universities and galleries across the country.

"I actually live the life of a hermit," said Barkhouse. "And that is part and parcel of the nature of creating public artwork so it is nice to come out of my shell, so to speak, once in a while and engage with others and hopefully have some great conversations around all things toad, frog, beaver and wetland conservation."

"Amphibians are fascinating as are all the different species found in our wetlands and forests. We are blessed with quite a variety of them in my part of the county from spring peepers to grey treefrogs, wood frogs, leopard frogs, green frogs and of course, the American toad, which is the focus of this particular workshop. About this time of year these tiny toadlets start to show up around my studio, which is wonderful. Although the American toad is not a species at risk, Fowler's toad is. While we do not have Fowler's toads in our region, as they are a species found in the very south of the province, it is always good to be mindful of the impact that human activity has on the habitat of all of these creatures."

Barkhouse takes great inspiration from amphibians, especially the wood frog. The wood frog is a unique species of frog that is 'freeze tolerant'.

"I have done a lot of artwork over the years that celebrates the survival strategies that species in our northern environment have developed like hibernation, migration, growing very thick fur, stockpiling food but one of the most amazing strategies has got to belong to the wood frog," said Barkhouse. "Because I don't know of any other animal that can freeze and then thaw out in the spring and then hop back into action."

Barkhouse says that the news of the event selling out is very exciting.

"I hope that this means that there are others who are looking for ways to help and spread information about our wetland species."

Materials and tools will be provided for the workshop. Barkhouse will include some samples that were made in the past for participants to take inspiration from.

"From these previous houses I have developed templates which will offer a starting point if the participants want to go that route," said Barkhouse.

Participants are encouraged to create their own design and dream home for their local amphibians, but to be mindful that it is an afternoon workshop.

"I anticipate, and hope, that we will end up with quite a variety of toad houses. I will be bringing the pieces back to my studio to fully dry and be fired, and will then return the finished work to the participants," said Barkhouse.

For the participants of the Toad House Building Workshop, Barkhouse recommends bringing a towel.

"Part of the fun of working in ceramics is that it is a messy, tactile endeavour. I will have some towels, but it would be good if people brought their own and if they want to keep their clothes clean, bring an apron or work shirt."

Submitted

More public health portals to launch in fall

from page 1

invaluable data so that we can better control the spread of illness and monitor emerging health trends. This is a significant step in public health, and I am proud of the work completed to date."

The Public Health Data Dashboards feature a user-friendly interface that allows users to explore local data on various public health indicators. Those indicators will help in how officials deal with chronic diseases, infectious diseases, injuries, mortality and the most recent census of population information.

The dashboards are presented for the HKPR District Health Unit area but, in many cases, they can also be filtered at the provincial level or to one of the three counties, which include City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County, and Northumberland County.

Five dashboards have already launched in the health unit's website.

There's the Census Profile Dashboard that explores data from Statistics Canada's 2021. It explores population trends, families, dwellings and households, income, language, mobility and education, and employment and community as being factors in public health.

The Chronic Diseases Dashboard provides local data for Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations for select chronic diseases including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and respiratory diseases.

The Infectious Diseases Dashboard explores the number of lab-confirmed cases for 75 infectious diseases including reportable respiratory, sexually transmitted/blood borne, vaccine-preventable and vector-borne diseases, as well as the number of outbreaks declared in highest-risk settings.

The Injury Profile Dashboard provides the number and rate of Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations due to injuries such as falls, sports and recreation, poisoning, transportation and more.

Rounding out the current suite of digital resources is the Mortality Profile Dashboard. It provides insight into the number and rate of deaths occurring among residents of the HKPR district including premature, avoidable and cancer-specific fatalities.

Bocking said other dashboards are slated for release later in the fall.

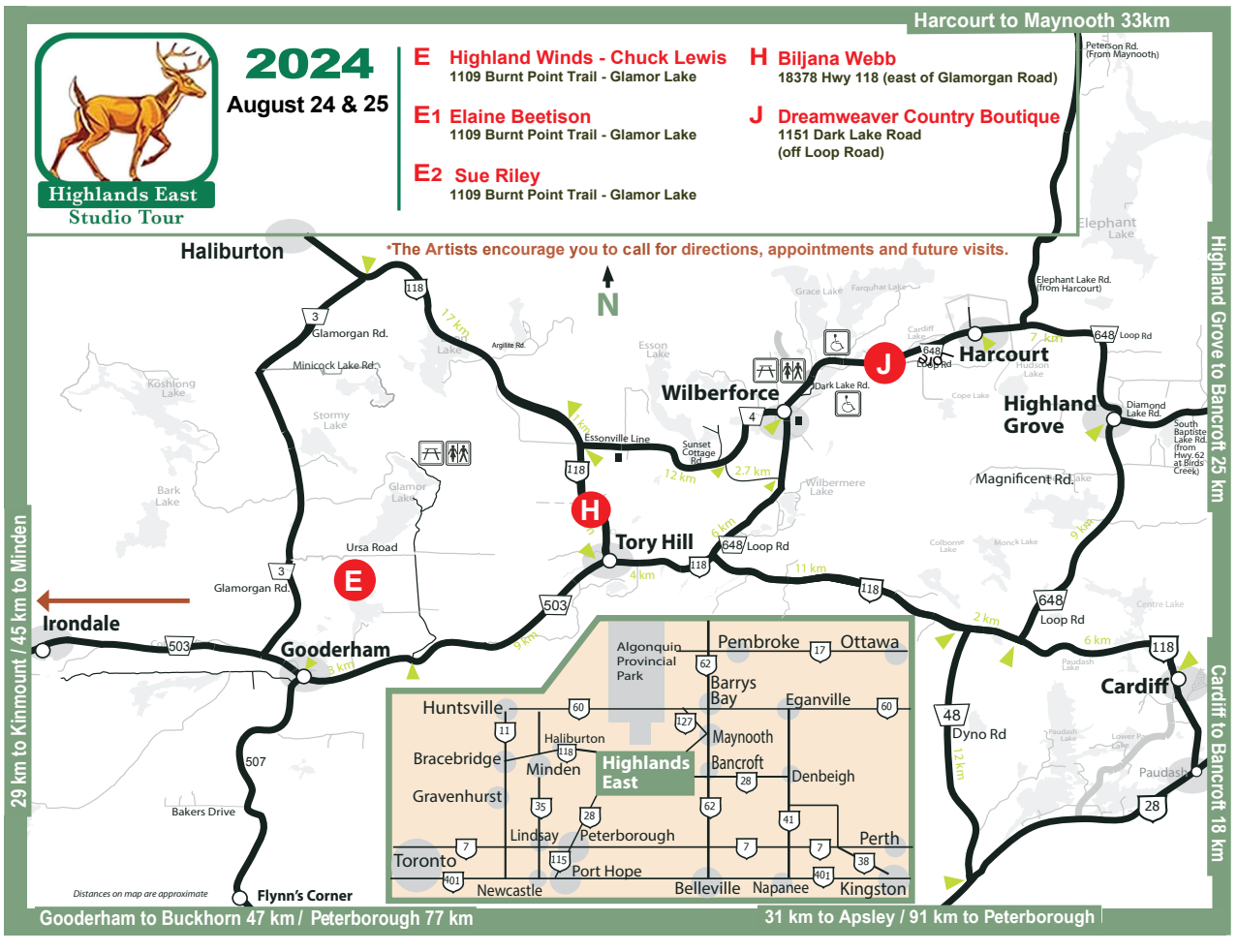
She said the health unit will continue to report community outbreaks and opioid overdose-related information through the new Public Health Data Dashboards.

The additional dashboards will feature updated information that will relate to respiratory infections and opioid overdoses, along with a new mental health data

dashboard.

"The health unit is committed to providing accurate, timely, and understandable data that can influence decision-making, policy development and, ultimately, improve the health and well-being of our community," Bocking said.

The launch of this new Public Health Data Dashboard marks a significant step towards achieving this goal and inspiring impactful change.



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Environment Haliburton hosts incineration webinar

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

An incinerator may not be the solution Haliburton County is looking for. On Tuesday, July 30 Environment Haliburton (EH) hosted a webinar on waste incineration. The webinar hosted Dr. Paul Connett and activists Linda Gasser, Wendy Bracken, and Liz Benneian. Notably, local politicians Liz Danielsen and Bob Carter were in attendance over Zoom.

"Something has got to change and the best way to start, in my view, is with waste," said Dr. Paul Connett, internationally known expert on environmental chemistry. In the United States of America, only one incinerator for burning waste has been built since 1997, while many have ceased operation, said Connett.

Connett argues that incineration perpetuates a linear economy. After resources are extracted, made into goods, and then consumed, the incineration of waste burns all energy and value from available resources.

"If you build an incinerator in your community, you are advertising to the world that you were not clever enough politically or technically to recover your discarded resources," said Connett.

For every four tonnes of trash that is burnt in an incinerator, approximately one tonne of ash is generated. There are two types of ash including bottom ash and fly ash. Bottom ash accumulates underneath grates within the incinerator, whereas fly ash is collected in air pollution control devices. Both types of ashes are highly toxic. Currently, the ash created in Ontario is shipped to New York where it is put into a landfill, entering our food chains. Some pollutants are not caught in air pollution control devices, including harmful dioxins. Dioxins are a group of chemical compounds that impact fetal and infant development in women and human health in general. Dioxin emissions are only tested once a year using six hour tests under stable conditions. They are not conducted during start-up, shutdown, or 'upset' conditions, during which they emit the most dioxins into the air, said Connett.

"Regulations are not enough to protect the public from emissions. You need strong regulations, adequate monitoring, and tough enforcement," said Connett.

Connett says that microparticles of pollutants would be the size of a grain of sand, whereas the particles that are scrubbed before being released in our atmosphere could be compared to cannonballs.

"Once the particles are in the bloodstream, they can enter any tissue in the body."

"In the future, we may be able to monitor microparticles in our communities, which I think will sign the death knell for incinerators," said Connett.

"If they can't do the hospital situation properly they can't do an incinerator," wrote Dr. James Hyland in the chat.

Following Dr. Paul Connett, Linda Gasser discussed the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) built in Clarington. Gasser described the incinerator as a failure to the residents of Clarington. It was also something that was politically challenging to fight, signed off before incoming politicians had a chance to discuss the topic. To date, Durham does not report operation costs, and dioxin and furan sampling data. The region does not require clear garbage bags to motivate better sorting, reduce garbage and to avoid burning e-waste, said Gasser.

"Haliburton should not consider sending their waste to any incinerator and definitely not one in another community," said Gasser.

"No one should look to the DYEC as a model to emulate. The devil is always in the details and they are not pretty," said Gasser.

Just as very little incinerators have been built in the United States of America, incinerators in Europe such as the Copenhill incinerator in Copenhagen have been considered a financial and climate disaster, said Gasser.

A video, recorded by Wendy Bracken, covered the rates of pollution and emissions by the DYEC and its impact on climate change. A Q and A period followed the video.

Fish on

Common mergansers catch a snack at Scott's Dam Road in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **August 8 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **August 29 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **September 12 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

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MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is pleased to welcome back artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman with her new exhibit Flower Orphanage. The exhibit is on display until August 17. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Join us on August 7 at 1 pm at the Gallery for an exclusive talk presented by the artist as she discusses Flower Orphanage. Admission is by donation. Visit the online calendar for more info.
- The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library are hosting a free screening of Voices Across the Water (2022) on Thursday, August 8 at 5 pm. The feature documentary follows two master boat builders as they practise their art and find a way back to balance and healing. The screening takes place in the Welch Room at the Cultural Centre. The screening is made possible through the support of the National Film Board. The admission is free and pre-registration is not required. Visit the online calendar for more info.
- The Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village, and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Join us for daily tours and drop-in programs: Learn a new language every Wednesday morning at 11 am in the Multilingual Schoolhouse, try out Robo-Coding on Thursday, August 8 at 11 am, and make ice-cream at the Friday Creamery on Friday, August 9 at 2 pm. Admission is by donation.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.call 705-286-3763.

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Burlesque Ball sashays into Haliburton

On Friday, Aug. 23, Pinestone Resort will host the third ever Burlesque Ball as part of the Minden Pride programming. The first Burlesque Ball was held in 2020. The second Burlesque ball was held two years later in August of 2022 after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This will be the third time we have done it. We took a break last year, we have done it every two years," said Collin Burke, artistic director on the board committee of the Burlesque Ball.

"We brought the idea of having a party during the week of Minden pride, that is how it began," said Burke.

In the first year of the Burlesque Ball, there was no theme. Outfits varied and guests relied on individual taste and expression. In the second iteration, the Burlesque Ball was advertised with a Latin flair. This led many guests to wear bright and colourful outfits. This year, the theme of the Burlesque Ball is 'deco-dence'.

"That is the tagline we have added to it. We are trying to capture the 1920s or 1930s energy," said Burke.

In 2022, around 230 people attended the Burlesque Ball. The Burlesque Ball committee has big plans to surpass those numbers and make this year's Burlesque Ball the biggest, boldest, and most exuberant Haliburton County has ever seen.

"This year, what is different is that it is a fundraiser for the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation," said Burke.

"From year one, it was a drag based performance. This year it is an even wider cross section of performing arts and some visual arts. We are going to try out some other things this year," said Burke. "Above and beyond what the show costs to produce, the proceeds will go to the Arts Centre Foundation."

Plum Vicious, from Minden, performed during the Viva Burlesque Ball at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in August of 2022. Plum Vicious is set to return to the stage this year. /File

On Tuesday, June 25, Dysart et al council voted unanimously to give 14.5 acres of land to the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation (HHACF) to build an arts centre in Haliburton County.

This year, the Burlesque Ball is having sponsors assist with paying costs of the event and raising money for the HHACF. The HHACF will use these proceeds to complete rezoning work for the gifted land, an environmental impact survey, a traffic survey, and other necessary steps before they are allowed to build. The total cost is estimated to total around $67,000. The association is currently hoping for funds from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to cover half their expenses, said Dan Manley, president of HHACF. A table will be present at the Burlesque Ball for anyone wanting to donate to the HHACF. Donations are also accepted through this link: https://hhartscentrefoundation.ca/donate. The HHACF is also looking for volunteers to assist with their board.

The proposed arts centre will have a large performance space with an orchestra pit capable of supporting orchestral performances, musicals, and theatrical events. The space will also have a smaller studio for intimate performances including interactive theatre events, lectures, exhibitions, and music performances, said Manley.

"We would love to have as many local groups use the arts centre as possible," said Manley. "We are looking for ways to check as many boxes as possible. We are very excited for the possibilities and the new land to jumpstart this project."

Thanks to a grant by HCDC, the Burlesque Ball has been able to hire more performers for the event than ever before. Performers include Devine Darlin, JD Blackmore, Thrasher, Titi Galore, Plum Vicious, and El Toro. Hendrika Sonnenberg and Chris Hanson from the Inconvenience Store will have an art installation on the premises for guests to visit.

Manley says that the drag performers are his favourite part of the Burlesque Ball.

"They are really sassy and funny. They just exude such confidence when they do their dance moves and their lip syncing. I just love their full confidence they have on the stage."

"There is nothing better than a large group of people celebrating, relaxing, and enjoying themselves. It is a bit unique for Haliburton County," said Burke. "People you may not see expressing themselves all the time, you can see them come out and do that."

"It is a celebration of performing arts and humanness. It is just a party. It is of fun inclusion and fantastic performers," said Burke. "This is a party and I want people to come out and have a really good time. I am looking forward to this year. It is going to be different and there are lots of things to see and do. We are raising money for a fantastic cause this year," said Burke.

More than half of the available tickets have been sold and are selling quickly. Tickets for this year's Burlesque Ball are $45 per person and can only be purchased online through russelredrecords.ca.

The Burlesque Ball is held at the Pinestone Resort at 4252 Haliburton County Road 21. Doors open at 7 p.m.

SIRCH: 35 years of putting community first

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

SIRCH Community Services is celebrating 35 years of connecting and supporting community members in Haliburton County as a not-for-profit organization.

This year, they were able to carry out over a dozen programs thanks to their staff and volunteers.

"I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for SIRCH Community Services' incredible journey and evolution," said founder and executive director Gena Robertson in SIRCH's Annual Report. "Starting from a small office in Haliburton, our organization has grown exponentially."

Robertson has been the leader of SIRCH since the very beginning.

She thanked outgoing long-time board president, Barbara Fawcett, for her dedication to SIRCH as Fawcett retires from the role.

"Her steadfast leadership and deep connection to Haliburton County have been invaluable," Robertson said. "Her contributions will be deeply missed."

Their highlighted programs this year include School's Cool, Community Action Program for Children and Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CAPC/CPNP), Repair Cafe, Share the Warmth, Community Kitchen, Lunch is On Us, Rally for Rhubarb, the Applesauce Project, the Last Chance Project, and provided Bancroft Community Transit bus passes.

They also operated the SIRCH Bistro and Bakery, the Mini Thrift Shop, and Thrift Warehouse in both Haliburton and Bancroft.

Twenty two children participated in the School's Cool program this year in Minden, helping prepare them for kindergarten this fall.

The CAPC/CPNP programs run weekly in Haliburton, Minden, and Lindsay. They supported 30 mothers and 45 children over the past year.

The Repair Cafe continues to be a success, diverting 76 items from the landfill thanks to handy volunteers.

Over 1,000 winter items were collected from the community and given for free to those who needed them through the Share the Warmth program.

Fifteen thousand meals were produced and distributed through the Community Kitchen.

Lunch is on Us gave 1,500 free lunches on Wednesdays, and live music filled the Bistro this year while it was served.

SIRCH collected rhubarb from community members to be used in their Community Kitchen desserts, and the Applesauce Project included the collection of wild apples to be made into applesauce and apple crisp.

The Last Chance Project was new this year. Items that may have otherwise ended up in the landfill were restored and offered for sale at Thrift Warehouse.

"As we look to the future, I am confident that SIRCH will continue to thrive, making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve," Robertson said.

Community Kitchen volunteer Sharon Wilson helps prepare and package meals that are distributed for free in the community. /Photo Submitted

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InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The Times

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News Media Canada / Médias d'Info Canada
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Letters to the Editor must be signed and include phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Email must include name and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Print Subscriptions 1 yr/ $51 (taxes included). Published each Wednesday by White Pine Media
To Subscribe to the Print or Digital edition, email subscriptions@haliburtonpress.com or call (705) 286-1288.

A jab to the right

THIS PAST weekend, my Facebook feed was abuzz with chatter about Imane Khelif, a female boxer representing Algeria at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. Khelif defeated her first opponent Angela Carini of Italy after 46 seconds of fighting. Carini left the match in tears, saying her punches were too painful. Transphobes emerged from all over the internet to hurl accusations regarding Khelif's sex at birth.

These accusations seem to stem from the International Boxing Association›s decision to disqualify her from the 2023 World Boxing Championship. It is worth noting that the IBA is a Russian-lead organization. Three days before Khelif's disqualification, she defeated Russian prospect Azalea Ameniva. After Khelif's disqualification, Ameniva was allowed to continue in the championship. The IBA has also faced scrutiny about corruption within their organization and there have been calls to overhaul the association and strip it's authority entirely.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

These accusations against Khelif are transphobic, sexist, and ableist. These poeple are ghouls trying to lessen the accomplishments of the Algerian athlete.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach assures that Khelif was born a woman, raised as a woman, has a woman passport, and has competed for many years as a woman.

Umar Kremlev has hinted that Khelif tested positive to have XY chromosomes, resulting in her disqualification from the World Championship. The IBA has not released any test results or backed up their choice to expel Khelif.

The IBA was banned from the Olympics before the 2020 Tokyo Summer Games and has officially been able to give any good reasoning behind her disqualification. Even if a female athlete is born with XY chromosomes, that does not make her a man. A 2017 study published in *Clinical Obstetrics & Gynaecology* estimates that one in 100,000 women are born with Swyer syndrome. Someone born with Swyer syndrome is still a woman, but has X and Y chromosomes.

In an interview with NBC, Khelif said "I want to tell the entire world that I am female and that I will remain female."

The accusations of Khelif's sex and gender insult the dedication, work, and skills of her as a female athlete. Sexist and transphobic trolls are quick to attack Khelif to make a statement against trans athletes. They do not care about women's sports or the Olympics.

They probably couldn't even point to Algeria on a map.

All they care about is attacking a female athlete due to her strength and superior abilities. Comments like these are not only an attack on trans women, but an attack on women athletes entirely. What they are saying is that there is no way that a woman could fight as hard as she could, so she must be born a man.

Absolute nonsense.

Transgender athletes have been allowed to participate in the Olympics since 2004. There is nothing wrong with trans athletes competing and contrary to some beliefs, they have not been dominating.

Get over it.

If you would like to come out and support your local 2SLGBTQI+ (two spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and beyond) community, come on out to the plethora of events happening for Minden Pride 2024. From Aug. 19 to Aug. 25, there will be drag storytimes, queer comedy nights, a Burlesque Ball and more for everyone to enjoy.

And as always, trans women are women.

Happy Minden Pride!

On the plus side

THIS YEAR, for the first time in many, I was successful in the antlerless deer draw. Non-hunters might not know what this means, so permit me to explain.

Hunters have to apply to the Ministry of Natural Resources if they want to be included in a draw to get an antlerless deer tag. Having an antlerless tag means a hunter can harvest a buck or a doe. Those who do not have one can only harvest bucks with antlers over 70 mm – unless a person or persons in their party has an antlerless tag and is willing to share it. Then the party can take one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag they possess.

All this is to say that having an antlerless tag, increases the odds of having venison hanging from the pole. It also increases the odds of suddenly being everyone's friend during deer season.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Yet, the possession of an antlerless tag is one of the unheralded joys that we hunters do not speak of often enough. I'm not sure why either. For just having one, elevates your status in the hunting community, at least for the duration of the deer season.

Essentially, an antlerless tag is the deer-hunting equivalent of being a multi-millionaire on a dating app. Which is to say, that once word gets out, you will have to fend off a slew of suitors who are not as interested in you as much as what you possess.

That is why the hunter who still has an antlerless tag at the start of the rifle or shotgun season is a hot commodity. And people in hunt camps with a shortage of them will suddenly take a renewed interest in your availability during deer season.

Don't be fooled though.

There are subtle signs that suggest a hunter is interested in you only for your antlerless deer tag. The first is when they invite you to their camp before they even know your name. Another is that they suddenly forget that you fired them from their last job. Or ran off with the love of their life. Or sold them a bridge.

Possession of an antlerless tag supersedes all these things.

As previously mentioned, an antlerless tag makes you a popular person around other deer hunters. So popular that in some red states it can get you a full scholarship. Or several marriage proposals.

And you will remain popular until that tag is filled too.

Having said that, I prefer to keep mine to myself as an insurance policy in case the buck I am dreaming of spending time with does not feel the same way about me. Besides, I like venison and a doe tastes every bit as good as a buck – sometimes better.

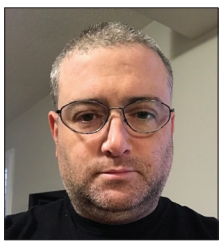
That's why I am so thrilled to be successful in the draw this year, especially since I believe I have gone six years without one. It was not so bad though. During those years, I shot 5 bucks. But I had to work harder for them, and this also cut into my grouse hunting and waterfowling time. Worse still I also had to sit still and watch many antlerless deer walk by me.

On the plus side, this is also how I got to know one of my newest hunting buddies. And, aside from selling me that bridge, it turns out he is not such a bad fellow.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

How I spent my long weekend without deadlines



JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

HAS THE uprising begun?

I've been saying for years it's going to happen and people have laughed heartily. But this latest incident is too close to home to be disregarded. In fact, this latest happened at home.

Where my children play. Where I've stretched out with a book and a beer in the spring and fall tolerable warmth and perhaps even dozed occasionally.

My son and I woke Friday morning to a rather large raccoon snoozing on the back deck furniture, stretched out there as if he helped pay the bills. Its face was nuzzled into the back cushions and the tail was concealed by its arse.

"That's an odd looking cat, Dad."

"I've never seen that cat in our backyard before," I said.

It's common for neighbourhood cats to traipse along atop the fence or lay on the grass in the shade of the rose of Sharon or the crab apple tree we have growing out there. Rabbits have taken siestas there. Shells of hatched robin eggs have been found in the grass beneath some of the sturdier trees.

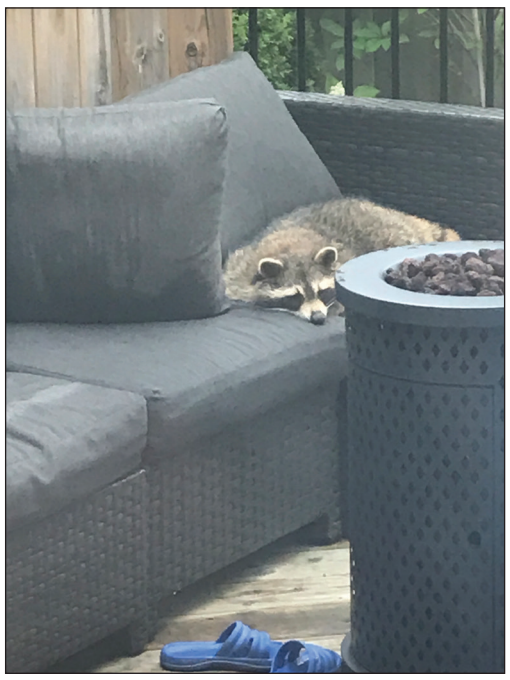
The animal stretched, rolled over, and the mask across the two eyes was plainly visible.

They have fingers and thumbs, man. And they can think, solve problems. There isn't a raccoon-proof garbage can lid they can't figure out the trick of it and break in. I'm certain it won't be long before they're piloting bombers over cities and towns as part of the uprising.

A few choice words were said. Ones that can't be repeated in a family newspaper, but you can imagine what they were. The raccoon begrudgingly slinked off the backyard couch, walked a few steps, and looked back at me long and hard as if he'll remember me. It found a way to get under the deck.

"You know what Mom says. You have to put another quarter in the swear jar."

The swear jar began in my household with a $1 penalty per transgression. Then with the cost of everything these days and I don't own a grocery store chain awash in profit, the fine was decreased to a quarter per colourful utterance.



Concessions have to be made to the economy.

But back to last Friday and a matter bigger than the swear jar. It was proof of something I've dreaded, the fear sprung from the certainty that the uprising is in the offing. And it's not without precedent, despite the mocking laughter I've ensured when trying to warn loved ones and neighbours.

In May 2017, a raccoon was discovered in an opening in the suspended ceiling tiles at Pearson International Airport. Gathering intelligence, no doubt. Getting the lay of the country's largest airport.

In March, a raccoon walked into a Toronto-area McDonald's. I can't imagine why, but it was documented in the media. Likely trying to stoke familiarity.

Just last week a raccoon hitched a ride aboard a Toronto subway train. And it was not the first time one was found on the subway or even inside Union Station.

"So we're getting out of Dodge," I said as I shoved the bedroom door. The missus is a registered nurse and the kids have her sleep late after her 14 hour days at work.

"Newfoundland is the safest place," I said. "So we're going back. There isn't a single raccoon on the island."

Somebody brought one aboard the rock once as a family pet. It wasn't long before the whole family was driven to the ferry terminal in Port aux Basques and put on the boat to the mainland. They're still spoken about periodically, but it's only in hushed whispers.

It's too bad, in its way. They were nice enough folks, that family. Sweethearts, really. The risk was just too great.

"The suitcases still in the garage loft? Pack only what we'll need. I'll come back with Uncle Dave in a couple months, depending on what's to happen, and we'll pack everything in a truck."

"Just Google how to get rid of the animal, James," she said. "And you owe the jar about $1.75. Don't think I didn't hear you because you were downstairs."

Then she rolled over in the bunk.

And that's how she's the resolve and the voice of strength in our house.

Minden Memories

A group of people taking a swim in the Gull River. The McKelvie House is in the Background. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

Farewell Brent

To the Editor,

Journalists and politicians have a unique relationship, one that can sometimes present tension, but is also truly symbiotic, and the longer you work together, the greater a rapport you tend to develop.

I worked at the *Minden Times* for seven of the eight years Brent Devolin was mayor of Minden Hills and during those years, we quite literally spent hundreds of hours talking to one another. A unique thing about Brent was that in a time of advanced technology, he still preferred having face-to-face conversations, and when it was amenable to our schedules, he would often come into the office to talk, rather than speaking on the phone.

After the business of the day was done, conversation would inevitably turn to federal and provincial politics, Haliburton County happenings, music, and to our own lives. He would ask with genuine interest how my family was doing, and would always, always tell me about what his kids were up to. He was so immensely proud of them. I've long considered Brent an acquaintance, but have realized acutely during the past few weeks that he was also my friend.

My deepest condolences to the Devolin family.

Sincerely,

Chad Ingram
Minden Hills

HCPL's Book of the Week

Lula Dean is on a mission to rid her public library of all inappropriate books—none of which she's actually read. To replace the "pornographic" books at the local public library, Lula starts her own lending library in front of her home: a cute wooden hutch with glass doors and neat rows of the worthy literature that she's sure the town's readers need.

What Lula doesn't know is that a local troublemaker has stolen her wholesome books, removed their dust jackets, and restocked Lula's library with banned books: literary classics, gay romances, Black history, witchy spell books, Judy Blume novels, and more.

A provocative and hilarious summer read about a little lending library that changes everything, *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

A Tower of babel

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

AS A FOLLOW-up to my rather dense, I'll admit, column on Freire's idea of naming your world to change it, a guest essay by Stephen Marche in the July 30th *New York Times* added an interesting perspective. His point is that listening to teenage language helps him understand how that generation sees the world.

Marche has a teenage son so he has an inside peek at the world of teen slang. I envy him, because I have no strategy for not appearing hopelessly old and dumb when the younger generation uses words that mean nothing to me. I try to translate using context and body language, as I would any foreign language, but the minimalism of much intergenerational chit-chat often renders that strategy unfruitful. And if I ask for translation, ooh, the pain of enduring the respectfully rolled eyes and somewhat managed patronizing tone – from grandkids who kinda know me one thing, quite another, immeasurably more debasing, from someone to whom I am only an old woman with grey hair and wrinkles.

But to Marche's point about what he perceives to be his son's generation's world view as reflected in their slang, he starts slow and easy with 'dope' replacing the 'cool' of our generation, which even I know. He believes his son's generation re-names more abundantly than prior adolescents because the world has become more alien and worrisome, 'characterized', he says, 'online and off, by collapsing institutions, erosions in trust and a loss of faith in a shared sense of meaning.'

Therefore his son's slang includes 'mid', which references anything 'average or slightly below. You cannot really complain about them, but they produce no joy.' The mush of mediocrity. I always tended toward being a 'tough love' mama, and I thought we were doing children an incredible harm when the school system embraced never failing students. I absolutely believe that you learn more from failure than success. I absolutely embrace striving for perfection, even while acknowledging that it an ideal, a goal, never a reality. I absolutely think nature is a meritocracy, and human nature should be in sync with that.

'Glazed' (as in donuts) 'indicates a gilding of information'. Spin, in political terminology. Inauthenticity in psycho-speak. Ambiguity and unreliability in any language. This perspective does explain a lot of current inaction. If I can't trust language, why should I bother to talk? If the same word means one thing to me and something entirely different, perhaps antithetical, to you, how can we have a conversation? People not being able to talk to each other, if I remember my Sunday School lesson about the Tower of Babel properly, meant that people could not work together effectively – Roger that, in about one million applications that spring immediately to mind! The intent of the introduction of multiple languages (God's idea) that kiboshed the building of the tower, which was to be tall enough to evade a second flood, was to punish people for thinking they could outwit His plans for them. To put them in their subsidiary place. Hmm, that also resonates with about a million current circumstances where the invisible hand does not start with G.

'Sus' in Marche's son's world, 'is short for suspicious or suspect'. In my time, 'suss' was a word I learned from a black woman of American culture that meant 'figure it out' as a verb and 'here's what I make of it' as a noun. It is illuminating that in the span of, say, fifty years the world has gone from being a problem to be solved to a mysterious and probably malicious presence. The loss of a sense of agency, if I understand this correctly, is a knife to my heart. If a sense of agency, and 'I' that can 'do' (which certainly was the meaning of suss to me), is what differentiates human beings from other sentient creatures, as Freire holds, then these adolescents are messaging they feel dehumanized, objects rather than subjects in their world.

Marche's last slang word is 'based – short for based in fact or based in reality'. I have no idea why this is Marche's favourite slang word, because to me it sums up all the wrongs that necessitated the previous words – the theft of the joy of accomplishment, the destruction of collaborative conversation, the gutting of human agency itself. Because if you can't trust words, how can you know the extent to which the facts or reality your perception is based on is what the other perceives? I hear 'based' as a cry for help as a floundering swimmer goes down for the third time.

Freire believed naming the world was the first and necessary step toward changing it. Marche's perspective seems to be that naming to reflect the malfunctions of the world is good enough in itself. Maybe – I hope so – there's more going on with his son's renaming than he perceives.

fay@faymartin.ca

Community events sponsored by

Lisa Mercer

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

Don't keep me or your event a secret!

lisa@lisamercer.ca
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Broker

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Toad House Building Workshop
When: Saturday Aug. 10, 1 to 4 p.m.
Where: Abbey Gardens- across from the horse paddock
In support of our amphibian populations, we are offering a unique and fun workshop building toad houses out of clay. Great for adults and youth, participants will be guided through the hand-building process to create a toad house of their own design. The finished pieces will be fired and can be collected in the weeks following the workshop. Join local artist Mary Anne Barkhouse at an inspiring location at Abbey Gardens - no experience necessary. Minimum age 12 - must be accompanied by an adult. Admission by donation. Pre-registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca.
Contact 705-457-3700

Bawaajigan - To Dream
When: Monday, Aug.12 to Friday, Aug. 16
Where: Haliburton School of Art + Design, 297 College Dr.
The Haliburton Sculpture Forest is excited to announce that Indigenous artist, Jared Tait will be leading, as our artist in residence, a community engagement art event. Community members are invited to participate in this free, drop in event, where they will learn about the woodland style of painting and create a number of 3-dimensional woodland style figures which will be placed in the Sculpture Forest. The finished work will be unveiled on Saturday, Aug.17 at 11:00 a.m. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca or email: outreach@haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

Anniversary Celebration Corn Roast
When: Thursday August 15 at 6 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Museum, 2314 Loop Road, Wilberforce
Join us for corn on the cob, hot dogs, cake and ice cream. This year's party features a special performance by the Wilberforce Loop Troup. Visit www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost or contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca for more information

Land Trust Discovery Days Rock Walk II
When: Saturday Aug. 17, 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Barnum Creek Reserve
Join Geologist John Etches to discover the rich and diverse geology of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. This event was so popular in 2023 that participants requested a Part Two! New and interesting information will be shared during this rock walk. Admission by donation. Pre-registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca. Contact 705-457-3700

Outpost Scrabble and Coffee
When: Wednesday, Aug. 21 starting at 10:30 a.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Museum, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Words used with a connection to the Outpost win an extra 10 points. Visit www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost for more information or contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca.

Old Times Afternoon Tea
When: Saturday, Aug 24, 1:15 - 4 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Museum, 2314 Loop Road, Wilberforce
The Wilberforce Heritage Guild is hosting a tea party. Enjoy old fashioned tea and sweets. Bring a friend and make new ones in a special place. Visit www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost or contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Haliburton County Historical Society Annual Pork Roast Dinner
When: Saturday, Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Firefighters Hall, 1123 Northshore Road
$30 per person. For tickets call 705-754-0427

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Victoria Campbell's paintings were on display at the Bonnie View Inn at Kash Art on the Water. /File

Phil Carroll holds up one of his handmade charcuterie boards at Kash art on the Water in 2023. /File

Explore creativity around Kash

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Kash Art on the Water is back for the fourth year in a row; a tour of artists and creatives gathering around Kashagawigamog Lake to show off their incredible creations.

Boat, drive, bike, or paddle around Kashagawigamog Lake this Saturday to check out the work of 25 vendors located at 10 different sites around the lake.

The group of organizing volunteers from the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization started the event during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to keep the community connected in an outdoor setting.

It's proven to be a successful idea.

"It's a wonderful event for the Haliburton County community," said organizer Lesley Sahakian. "Get out and enjoy a great day of art on the water."

The tour features potters, painters, woodworkers, jewelry makers, handmade clothing, abstract art, and more.

To make it more accessible to get to each artisan, several locations will have more than one artist displaying their work.

Seven artists will be located at the Bonnie View Inn this year, four on Voyager Road, and five at Kate's Burger Counter.

Visit www.lko.ca/kash-art for the map and directions of all locations.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10.

DOMINION 1865 LAGER PRESENTS
"Folk Music's charmingly talented boy next door"
Ian Reid
Sat. Aug 10, 7:30PM
"Engaging and Entertaining. Fun and clever. Any time with Ian is time well spent."
IanReid.ca
GET TICKETS
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ONLINE Box Office
Pay-What-You-Can Tickets
Support Canadian Singer/Songwriters

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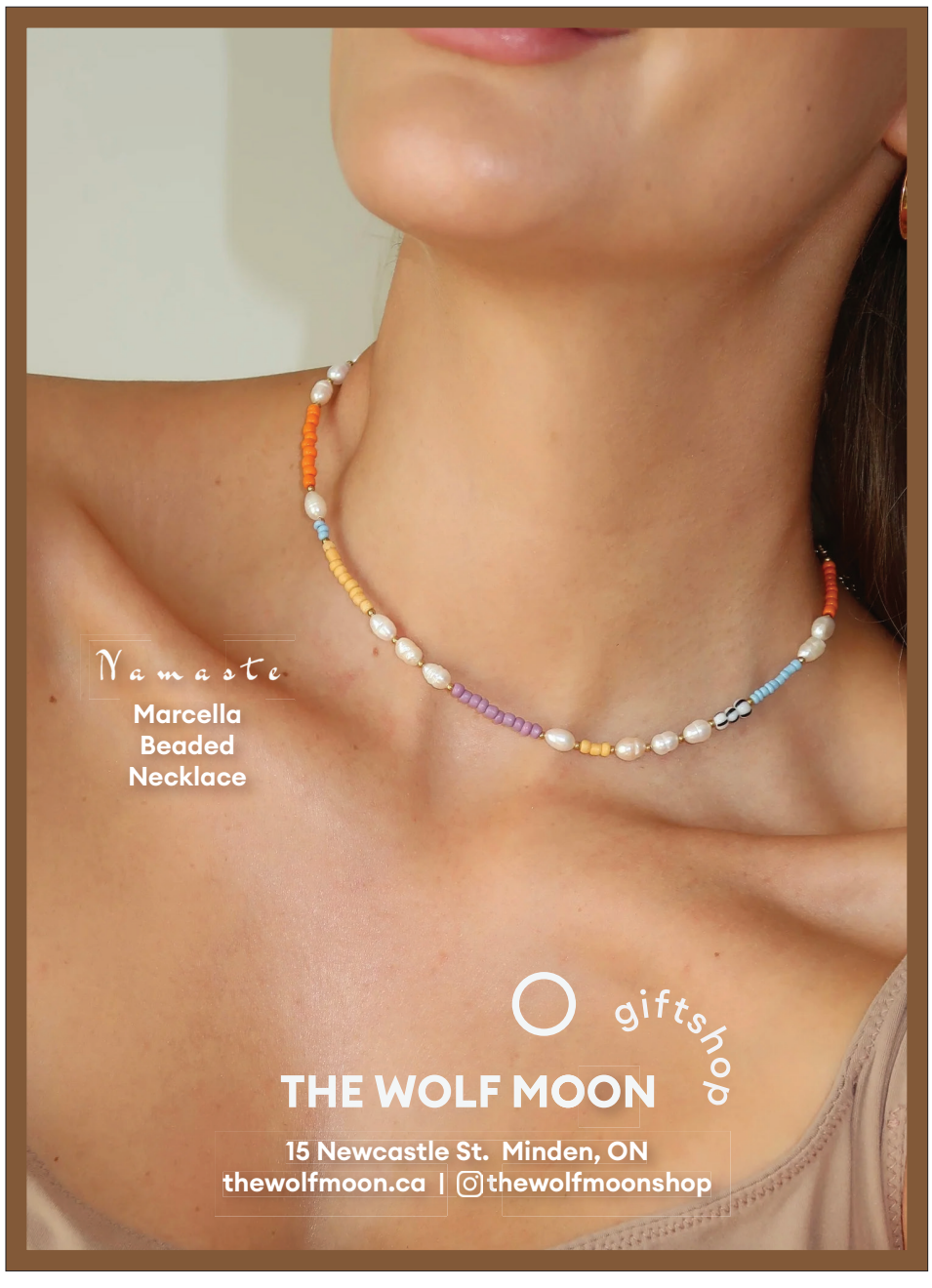
Tour de Forest

Stephanie Ford Forrester's artwork focuses on printmaking and textiles to create masterfully crafted artworks. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*.

Tom Green offered a variety of pieces at his Glass Eagle Studios.

Corin Ford Forrester opened up her studio to host artists for the 2024 Tour de Forest.



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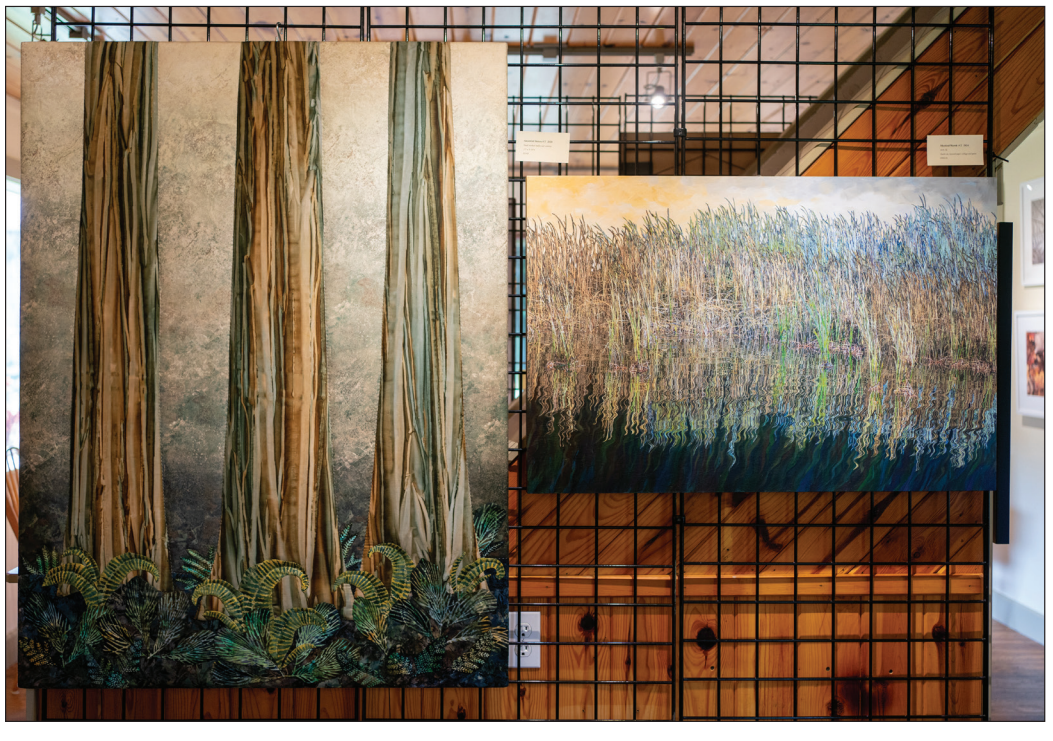
Kenzie Merritt owner and artist of Happy Twigs showed off her pyrography art at Glass Eagle Studios on the weekend for the Tour de Forest. Her hats are very popular. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Donna Both showed off landscape paintings and sculptures made from repurposed wood.



Stephanie Ford Forrester showcased artwork created with a variety of mediums including paint and collage.

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DOMINION 1865 LAGER PRESENTS
"Folk Music's charmingly talented boy next door"
Ian Reid
Sat. Aug 10, 7:30PM
"Engaging and Entertaining. Fun and clever. Any time with Ian is time well spent."
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GET TICKETS
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Wednesday **Wing Night**
Thursday at 5 - Fresh **Meatloaf Dinner**
Friday Lunch - **Meatloaf Sandwich**
Fish Friday! - Fish & Chips at a hot deal!
Weekends - **BBQ RIBs** while qty lasts

Info @ https://DominionHotelPub.ca

Join our e-mail newsletter for advance notice of live music and food specials!

113 Main St., Minden (705) 286-6954

MINDENPRIDE
IN THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

MINDEN PRIDE WEEK
AUGUST 19-25! CHECK OUT EVENT DETAILS AT WWW.MINDENPRIDE.CA

MONDAY AUGUST 19TH

FLAG RAISING
Time: 11:00 am
Location: Minden Municipal Office parking lot

FESTIVAL OPENING RECEPTION
Time: 11:30
Location: Up River Trading Co., Minden

MEET AND GREET
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Bonnie View Inn,
2713 Kashawagamog Lake Road

TUESDAY AUGUST 20TH

DRAG STORYTIME – MINDEN
Time:: 3:00 pm
Location: Minden Library

VOICE OF PRIDE ART EXHIBITION RECEPTION
Time: 5:00pm
Location: Minden Hills Cultural Centre

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21ST

YOUTH PRIDE DAY
Time: 11:00 -2:00pm
Location: Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub
12 Dysart Ave., Haliburton

QUEER COMEDY NIGHT
Time: 7:00
Location: Sir Sams Ski and Bike/ Eagle View

THURSDAY AUGUST 22ND

DRAG STORYTIME – HALIBURTON
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Haliburton Library

QUEER TRIVIA NIGHT
Time: 7:00
Location: The Dominion Hotel, Minden

FRIDAY AUGUST 23RD

FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE
Time: 1:00-3:00
Location: Minden Cultural Centre

BURLESQUE BALL – DECO-DANCE
Time: 7:00pm **Location:** Pinestone Resort

SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH

MAD HATTER TEA DANCE
Time: 1:00 – 4:00pm
Location: Hook Line and Sinker, Haliburton

SUNDAY AUGUST 25TH

RAINBOW STREET FESTIVAL 2023
Time: 11:00 – 3:00pm
Location: Water Street

PRIDE RIVER PARADE
Time:12:00 – 1:00 launch
Location: Gull River, Rotary Park

FESTIVAL WRAP PARTY
Time: 3:00pm
Location: Boshkung Social

MINDEN PRIDE IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:

#MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

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Equitable Bank

FOLLOW US FOR
EVENT DETAILS & INFORMATION

Minden_Pride Minden Pride

Steve Todd awards Harper Gooley and Fynn Gooley with the Opportunity Looks Like Hard Work Award.

Hard work pays off

Meet the incredible winners of the Opportunity Looks Like Hard Work Award! Congratulations to Carter Mitchell, Lillian Ramsdale, Harper Gooley and Fynn Gooley. Their dedication, positive attitude, and hard work set them apart. Join us in celebrating their achievements and the values they embody. Given out by SIRCH Community Services, the $600 financial award was created for students in grades 9, 10 or 11 who demonstrate academic merit and also work part-time in Haliburton County. Winners were scGred and chosen by a panel consisting of a SIRCH board member, a staff member and a community business rep. Pictured are Steve Todd from Todd's Independent, Carther Mitchell, Lillian Ramsdale, and Stacey McLean from SIRCH Community Services. /Photos submitted

OPPORTUNITY LOOKS LIKE HARD WORK AWARD 2024
Carter Mitchell
OPPORTUNITY LOOKS LIKE HARD WORK AWARD 2024
Lillian Ramsdale

SUBARU

MINDEN SUBARU
13061 Hwy 35,Minden
705-286-6126

Masonry at work in Haliburton County

Since 1896, Minden's own Arcadia Masonic Lodge has been an active member of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Our designated role with the Grand Lodge is as part of the Victoria District which now consists of 10 lodges spread throughout Haliburton and Victoria Counties.

On a regularly scheduled rotation since 1896, Arcadia Masonic Lodge has put forth a member to serve as District Deputy Grand Master. The DDGM is the third highest ranking officer in the Grand Lodge. For the upcoming year, this tremendous honour has been assigned to RW Bro James E. Jones who will be the eighth DDGM from Arcadia Masonic Lodge to serve in this capacity. James has served Arcadia Masonic Lodge as Worshipful Master on several occasions over the past thirty years and in 2013 was granted the honour of becoming a Grand Steward. He is very much looking forward to representing and promoting Arcadia Masonic Lodge and Minden as he travels the province on behalf of Victoria District.

One important aspect of each district deputy's year is the promotion of a suitable charity that would benefit from our Masonic fundraising and widespread promotion. RW Bro Jones has chosen Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association located in Minden as his charitable project.

The Walkabout Farm offers therapeutic riding, youth outreach and horsemanship programs for children and adults with unique considerations at no cost for participants. Their specialized programs are open to and accessible to those in need throughout Ontario and beyond.

Armed with the experience and drive necessary to succeed and the backing and support of all the brethren of Arcadia Masonic Lodge and Victoria District, RW Bro Jones is both honoured and humbled by this exciting new adventure. Please feel free to contact us at Arcadia Masonic Lodge should you have any questions.

Submitted by RWB Gareth Kellett, District Historian

District Deputy Grand Master Jim Jones pictured. /Submitted

Sudoku brought to you by

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SUDOKU

							2	8
1				6				9
		4			7			1
	7		5	4				
						1	4	
			8	2				
6			2		9		3	4
5						8		
	2					7		

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

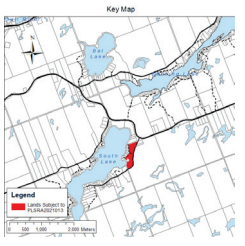
Answers on page 19

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2021013: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Lake, lying in front 1130 Hamilton Road located within Lot 6, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Snowdon



The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to any of the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than August 30, 2024.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning, Township of Minden Hills
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Dance Returns to the parks and streets

During the week of Aug. 5 to 10, dance performances will be popping up in parks and on the streets of Haliburton and Minden.

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) is presenting "'Note the Weather" a contemporary dance for outdoor public space featuring five dancers and a harpist. Vignettes of this work will be featured at on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as part of Haliburton Rotary Summerfest in Head Lake Park in Haliburton near the Welcome Centre, on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 12:15 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in front of the Red Doors at the Haliburton School of Art + Design, and on Friday, Aug. 9, 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in front of the barn in the Haliburton Village square on Highland Street.

A full production of "Note the Weather" will be performed at the Village Green in downtown Minden on Saturday, Aug. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Note the Weather" is choreographed by Mairéad Filgate, who is well known in Haliburton for her performances co-created with the Throwdown Collective in Dusk Dances Haliburton and the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. She has put together a dance troupe from various places across Canada to perform this work.

In this work, the dancers, accompanied by a harpist and vocalist Shannon Kingsbury, zoom in on intimate details of the everyday. Simple images develop to reveal personal relationships to self, others, and the surrounding environment, highlighting the architecture of space and bodies.

Performers and audience members will be invited to slow down, tune into, and respond to what is happening around us.

Weather permitting the performers will be practicing in the various outdoor locations in the days prior to their performances. The public is welcome to watch the work in progress.

Attendance at the performances is free, donations on site are welcome.

These performances are made possible through the support of the Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Canada and our site sponsors, Rotary Club of Haliburton, Fleming College - Haliburton School of the Arts, Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Royal LePage Lakes of Haliburton and the Township of Minden Hills

DH3 is part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

For more details visit www.dancehappenshere.com

Submitted

Gettin' dirty

It's hard work being a chipmunk. You cannot be afraid to get dirty in order to survive. /Photo by Tammy Nash

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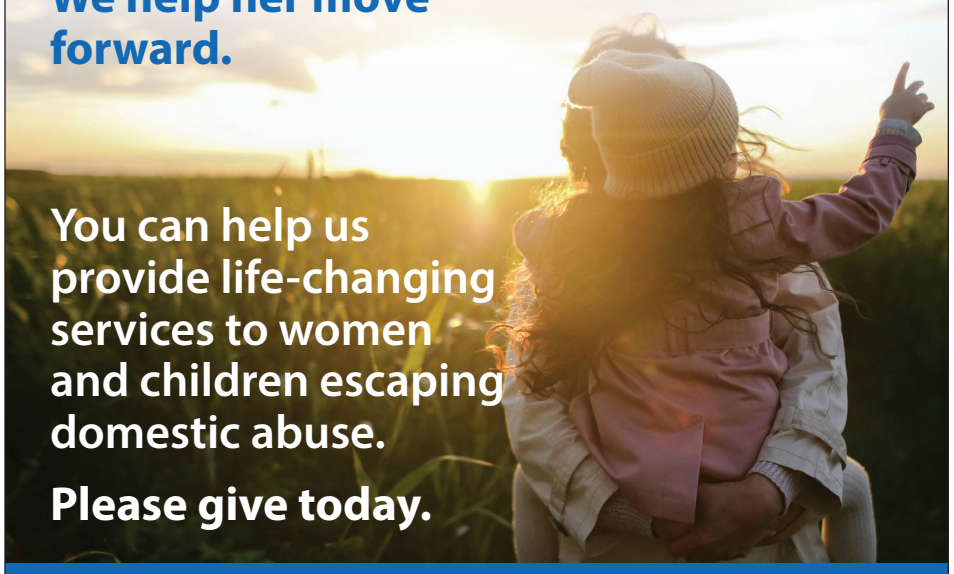

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The Haliburton County Huskies Junior A Hockey Team are seeking billet families to provide a nurturing environment for our players for the 2024-25 season!

Billet families play an integral part in the success and support of each player.

We ask that our players be welcomed into your home, treated like part of your family, and be provided with basic necessities during the season.

It is important that we work together to ensure the rules of your home and our team are respected by our players.

Players attend mid-August to mid-April

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- Access to internet
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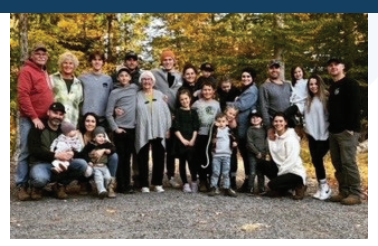
- $600 monthly per player to cover expenses such as meals.
- 2 season tickets per household (approximate value $400 each)
- 2 complimentary butcher boxes throughout season

Contact Jess Jackson

huskieshousing@hotmail.com



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Y. NM

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Ready for School events help kids with disabilities

With school on the horizon, Five Counties Children's Centre wants to support families who have kids with disabilities or exceptionalities starting class for the first time.

The Centre is hosting Ready for School Family Info Fairs at its sites in Peterborough (Aug. 20), Cobourg (Aug. 21) and Lindsay (Aug. 22). The aim is to ease the transition to school for kids starting JK, SK or Grade 1, making it less worrisome for families whose children may face greater challenges due to physical, developmental or communication needs.

"Any time a child starts school is a big deal for families, but it can be even more nerve-wracking for parents and caregivers whose child has a disability or exceptionality," says event organizer Hayley Hodges, the Client and Family Engagement Lead at Five Counties. "We want to help reduce that anxiety for kids and parents by inviting families to attend our Ready for School events."

Each of the Ready for School events run from 4 p.m. to 6:30 pm. Advance registration is required, and child care will be available. Attendees will be able to:

Gain knowledge and experience about going to school for the first time.

Hear from other parents whose kids with disabilities or exceptionalities have successfully made the transition to school.

Ask questions of Five Counties clinicians and other professionals who support students.

Learn how to advocate for their child, while learning about school-based resources to support them.

Access resources, including the 6F's of Child Development that can help introduce a child with unique needs to their new school setting.

Get on board a school bus to see what the ride entails.

Enjoy snack and welcome packages, including tools, toys and tips.

Hodges says the Ready for School events organized by Five Counties are not meant to duplicate other school-preparation events. "Our focus at Five Counties is to help kids and youth with disabilities and exceptionalities build their abilities for life," she notes. "One of the biggest life-changing events a child goes through is starting school, so it makes sense for Five Counties to be there for families who may need extra help and reassurance at this time. We hope families will see value in this and join us!"

Submitted

Red Umbrella Inn prepares for Rock the Lake event

From Toronto's legendary El Mocambo to one of Haliburton's longest surviving lake resorts, the Austin Carson Band is back Aug. 17 at the Red Umbrella Inn.

The Austin Carson Band is set to make a triumphant return to the Red Umbrella Inn for the highly anticipated "Rock the Lake" event on Saturday, Aug. 17. Known for their energetic performances and musical prowess, the band has been riding a wave of momentum since the release of their latest single "Jim Beam".

Voted Peterborough's "Top Local Band," The Austin Carson Band has continued to captivate audiences with their unique sound and engaging live shows. Their ability to blend familiar sing-along favorites with their own boot-stomping originals creates an unforgettable experience for concertgoers.

Their 2024 resort tour began with a bang, headlining at one of Canada's most iconic venues, The El Mocambo in Toronto, on June 8. This performance marked a significant milestone for the band and set the tone for an electrifying tour season.

"If you were to ask me 3 years ago if I thought we'd be in a position to headline that caliber of venue, I would never have imagined it! We stood on a stage where the likes of the Rolling Stones, Stevie Ray, and Bon Jovi (to name a few) all stood before us at some point. It was a surreal experience to say the least." says Carson, founder and frontman of Austin Carson band.

Rock The Lake is a family-friendly event held at the picturesque Red Umbrella Inn, overlooking the serene Twelve Mile Lake. Known as one of the area's longest surviving resort, the Red Umbrella Inn provides the perfect backdrop for an evening of music and fun. The show will kick off at 8 p.m., promising a memorable night for attendees of all ages.

Tickets for the event are available online via Eventbrite.com. Early bird tickets are priced at $15 and are available until Aug 10. After this date, general admission tickets will be $20. Don't miss your chance to experience the Austin Carson Band live in one of the most beautiful settings Cottage Country has to offer.

Submitted

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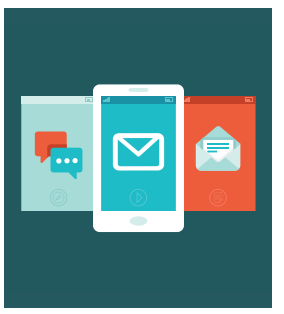

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to thomas@haliburtonpress.com

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650 OBITUARIES

Susan Foster

On July 29, 2024, at age 69, Susan Foster (née Murawski) was called to heaven after a difficult battle with cancer. Devoted and loving wife of Len Foster who preceded her in death. Dear sister of Catherine (Dennis), Alan (Jean), and Mary (Brian). Lovingly remembered by nieces Lynn, Margaret, and Rebecca along with grandnieces Sophia and Addison. She will also be missed by the children of Len Foster as well as numerous friends in the United States and Canada. Sue worked as an RN and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. During her career and life, she helped and positively impacted many people in the US and Canada, as well as during her time with the US Peace Corps in Nepal.

Visitation and Memorial Service

Friends and family were invited to call at **OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** 7 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden on Friday afternoon, August 2, 2024 for a Memorial Mass at 2 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). A reception will follow in the Church Hall. As an expression of sympathy, donations to The Canadian Cancer Society or The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Palliative Care, would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Road trade may be delayed

A suggestion that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications take over the Vankoughnet Road, converting it to a class one hundred highway, if the municipalities in Muskoka and Haliburton County agree to take over a similar distance of provincial highways, may have run into a snag.

Jurisdiction of the Vankoughnet Road is currently split between Haliburton County and the District Municipality of Muskoka.

At the June County Council meeting it was agreed that the county roads department would take over a portion of Highway 519 from Highway 530 to Redstone and Highway 519 from Haliburton Village to Highway 121 in exchange for the MTC acquiring the Vankoughnet Road.

The problem in the exchange is not occurring at this end of the Vankoughnet Road, but rather in Muskoka.

According to the clerk treasurer of the District Municipality of Muskoka, Mr. Williams, the exchange has not been readily accepted by municipalities in that district. He pointed out that the district government does not have responsibility for the maintenance of area roads, so that any exchange with the provincial government will place a greater burden on local townships for road maintenance.

"The exchange is simply unacceptable to some of the municipalities," Williams commented. He said the townships are concerned highways coming under their jurisdiction would be maintained to MTC standards.

Under the terms of the proposal, the MTC stated that municipalities at both ends of the Vankoughnet Road had to agree to the trade before it would be completed.

Williams explained that one of the highways which the MTC has offered to exchange for the Vankoughnet Road is number 169, a route leading to Sudbury. "The MTC keeps that highway scraped bare in the winter months, and it needs almost constant attention. The municipality which would be responsible for that section of road does not feel it could keep up that standard of maintenance."

The clerk said that several different trades have been suggested by the MTC but the municipalities have objected strongly if it means an addition of mileage to their work area.

"The situation in Haliburton is simpler," Williams pointed out. "The council which accepts the trade is the same body which will be responsible for the maintenance of the roads. In Muskoka, the district council is responsible for making the trade with the MTC but the responsibility for maintaining the highways falls to local townships."

Williams said he felt there was general agreement that the MTC take over the Vankoughnet Road but little consensus on what roads should be taken over by the municipalities.

While the Haliburton County Council did accept the exchange proposal, it was not with total agreement. Reeve Bob Vick of Snowdon Township, where a large portion of Highway 519 is located, objected strongly to the move. He opposed it because of what he believed would be a reduction in maintenance and possible loss of jobs in the area.

While most townships in Muskoka are generally unwilling to accept the responsibility of the extra highway miles at least one, Bracebridge, is worried about the loss of mileage in its system.

Most of the Vankoughnet Road from Highway 11 to the border of Haliburton County, is in Bracebridge Township. The council there has expressed concern that the loss of such a large portion of the road system could result in lay-offs in its road department.

So, for the moment, the possibility that the Vankoughnet Road may become a class 100 highway under MTC jurisdiction is stymied. Unless a suitable trade of road mileages in Muskoka can be found, it is unlikely the plan will proceed as proposed.

Obviously enjoying the good times of the Gooderham Horseshoe Days, this foursome perform a lively step during the square dancing. The annual event drew an excellent crowd to the community in southern Haliburton. For more photographs of the day's activities, turn to page 15.

Moving in to get a closer look at the flowers on display one of the many people to attend the Minden and District Horticultural Society Flower and Vegetable Show gets a closer look at the display. For the show results and more photographs, please turn to page 5.

Board plans to build own offices

Plans for the construction of a new administration building were approved at the August 12 meeting of the Haliburton County Board of Education.

A contract, in the amount of $66,843 was awarded to John Beachli Construction of Haliburton for the new structure. The building is to be located on land already owned by the school board between the High School and senior elementary school in Haliburton.

Two other contractors, Elstone Limited and Don Campbell, also bid on the job.

According to the director of education, J. Douglas Hodgson, construction is expected to begin shortly on the building. It will measure 41 feet by 42 feet and include two levels. The board meeting room and vault will be located on the first floor while offices for the various board officials will be located on the second level.

The board currently rents space in a downtown Haliburton block. A recent hike in the rent of those premises was apparently one of the major factors in the decision of the board to build their own centre. According to Hodgson it was expected that the building will have paid for itself, because of the savings in rent, in a short period of time.

He noted that the services for the new building are already in place or can be brought in from the nearby senior elementary school.

The board has apparently been considering the construction of their own building for a number of years.

The director of business affairs for the board, Jim Leworthy, noted that county ratepayers will not notice an increase in taxes to cover the cost of the new building. The board has accumulated a reserve fund of $245,000 over the past years and money in this capital account will be used to cover the cost. There is no financial assistance from the province for administration buildings.

Leworthy said that the building would probably save the taxpayers money. He noted that the renewal of the lease for the present offices amounted to $58,000 for the next five years. In addition, the board was responsible for the heating costs at the present office complex.

One of the features of the new building will be the use of heat pumps for heating and cooling. The building will also be well insulated with R-32 factor in the ceiling.

Leworthy expected the final cost for the new building, once the additional fixtures have been added, to be no greater than $70,000. This amount, Leworthy claims, can be recovered within the first five to ten years of the building's use.

Minden backs railway objection

Anson, Hindon and Minden Township council have endorsed the efforts of the Haliburton County Council in attempting to stop the abandonment of the CNR line connecting Haliburton Village and Lindsay.

The support came in the form of a resolution passed at the August 13 meeting.

According to that motion, the council, "...wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the Provisional County of Haliburton to retain the railway in Haliburton County."

It was noted that even though the rail line does not pass through Anson, Hindon and Minden Township, all townships in the county benefit from the existence of that line.

The councillors were told that the county had set aside $3000 to help prepare its case against the move by Canadian National Railway and, on a per capita basis, the municipality's share would be $546. It was pointed out as well that the townships of Dysart et al and Snowdon would be shouldering a major portion of the cost of opposing the application. The railway cuts through these two townships.

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